Kevin Baker

World History 2

Mr. Walker

12/8/09 *William Blake: The Master of the Words*

William Blake was an English poet. He was born in London in November 1757. He was educated at a school until he was ten. He then left school to go to the Henry Pars Drawing Academy. He would stay there for five years. As a child he admired artists such as Raphael, Michelangelo, and Dürer. When he was young he wanted to be a visual artist. He wouldn’t write poetry until he was twelve. His first collection of poems was called “Poetical Sketches” and was printed in 1783. He was officially titled an engraver as his family could not afford a painter apprenticeship. Therefore, he was an apprentice to the town engraver. In 1778 Blake enrolled in the Royal Academy of Art. At this point in his life, poetry took a backseat roll as he focused more and more on art. He wrote poems as a hobby. He finished a new poem at the same time he opened his own engraving shop. He was mocked for his combining of poetry and art (his engraving *was* his art).

In 1788, he printed his first complete book of Poetry titled ‘Songs of Innocence.’ He married a girl named Catherine Boucher. This could have inspired his third book ‘The Marriage of Heaven and Hell.’ The biggest influence on his style and writing subjects was his society that he could observe around him. As he grew older, he began to focus more and more on his poetry. This is probably due to the fact that he could watch London fall during the war between Brittan and France. This could have easily inspired many poems. The biggest poem coming from this point in his life was ‘The Tyger.’

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| |  | | --- | | THE TYGER (from Songs Of Experience)  By William Blake  Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  In the forests of the night,  What immortal hand or eye  Could frame thy fearful symmetry?  In what distant deeps or skies  Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  On what wings dare he aspire?  What the hand dare sieze the fire?  And what shoulder, & what art.  Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  And when thy heart began to beat,  What dread hand? & what dread feet?  What the hammer? what the chain?  In what furnace was thy brain?  What the anvil? what dread grasp  Dare its deadly terrors clasp?  When the stars threw down their spears,  And watered heaven with their tears,  Did he smile his work to see?  Did he who made the Lamb make thee?  Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  In the forests of the night,  What immortal hand or eye  Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?  1794 | |  |

One of the most famous poems William Blake wrote was “The Tyger.” This poem is very repetitive